

MAYOR'S REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2008

Willoughby Hills is beginning to develop a very "fearless" image! In spite of heavy, unrelenting rain, hundreds of residents and their friends turned out for our first annual Fall Corn Fest. Thank you for supporting this event and, as I promised in my previous Mayor's Report, I am confident you had a good time and had plenty to keep you busy. Unfortunately, our Flea Market at the beginning of the day was cancelled as the heavy rain would not stop for vendors to prepare their goods for sale. Our Fire, Police and Service Departments would not let the rain cancel "Touch A Truck", however, and hundreds of families made their way inside the Fire Station to get a first hand look at fire, police and service vehicles. As always, this program was very well received by our residents and friends. The parade, though smaller than anticipated due to the inclement weather, was very enjoyable for the residents who turned out. Our Grand Marshal of the Parade was Mr. Alva Brichford, our oldest resident at age ninety-nine. The midway at the Community Center and Roemisch Fields finally started to draw a crowd at dinner time, as the rain subsided and over 400 people came to enjoy chicken and steak by Texas Roadhouse, pizza from the wonderful pizza shops of Willoughby Hills and carnival food from other vendors. Our three corn hole tournaments were held (Kids', Municipal and Open) and I came to realize how popular this game has become with our residents and the community. After being entertained by our terrific Councilman/Disc Jockey Frank Germano, the bands "Free Fall" and "Buck Shot" took center stage and rocked till the event closed. The fireworks highlighted the evening, giving residents a chance to sit in their driveways and watch the skies light up over Willoughby Hills in truly a grand finale. I am very proud of the way this event turned out for our city and its residents. I could honestly feel a "community atmosphere" as I saw the camaraderie between neighbors; keeping with our "Residents First" promise to keep our residents in the forefront as we face other city challenges on a daily basis. Thanks to all who attended the event and a special thanks to all our volunteers who worked so hard to make this a reality.

Our heavy trash pickup was a success, with many of our residents being given the opportunity to rid out some unwanted items. We used a new company for this service this year and I was pleased to know they did a nice job for our city.

Due to the recent heavy storm damage to many trees in Willoughby Hills, our Service Department came to the rescue of many residents by assisting in curbside pickup of tree limbs and branches. Hopefully, this saved the residents having to load the debris into their own vehicles to City Halls' brush pile. Thanks to our excellent crew for this great "Residents First" call to action!

Chardon Road repaving is finally complete and I want to thank you for your patience in getting through this lengthy project. All of us sat in traffic probably a lot longer than we would have liked, but the end result of a smooth Chardon Road (particularly with winter coming) made it all worthwhile.

Some of the upcoming recreation events that I hope our residents will take advantage include our Craft Fair on Saturday, October 11, featuring over fifty vendors with some beautiful items to prepare your home for the holidays. Our Halloween Party is set for Sunday, October 26. Along with many witches, ghosts and goblins, a haunted hayride will provide enjoyment to the attendees. We've also reserved Santa Claus to have breakfast with the residents on Saturday, December 13, 2008, and will be offering reservations for you to join us soon. Please keep all of these dates open as I am sure they offer fun times you will not want to miss.

As we move forward into the winter months, I will prepare a plan for some projects we wish to complete for our city in the coming year, including repaving some of the much needed side streets, painting the city's fire hydrants, and reviewing our plans for the newly acquired Maple Grove Grange. If there are other concerns you have that you would like to see addressed, please feel free to contact my office at 440-946-6614. I will continue to strive to put "Residents First."